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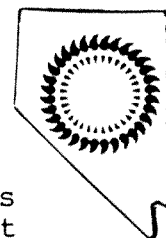
NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

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SYNOPSIS

It was fitting for October, the "Halloween Month", to have a climate personality like that of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. The first 2/3 of the month was "Hyde-like" as it was unusually warm with no precipitation in the State, while the last 1/3 brought unusually cold weather with precipitation Statewide, and one of the biggest October storms on record along the east slopes of the Sierra Nevada as "Dr. Jekyll" dominated.

October was the 4th month in a row with temperatures averaging above normal in the Silver State. In fact, Reno and Las Vegas had the 3rd warmest Octobers on record, with records going back to 1888 in Reno and 1907 in Las Vegas. Only Octobers in 1933 and 1988 (both drought years) were warmer in Reno, and 1978 and 1988 in Las Vegas.

Precipitation generally averaged above normal, except in the extreme Northeast, part of the Northwest and in most of Southern Nevada.

TEMPERATURE

Temperatures averaged well above normal in all but the central portion of Nevada, where they were near or only a little above normal this month. Greatest departures were in the Far West where Reno (+6.3 degrees), Minden (+5.4 degrees), Honey Lake Fleming (+5.1 degrees), and Denio (+5.1 degrees), all enjoyed the 3rd warmest October on record. In the South, Logandale (+6.0 degrees), Las Vegas (+4.6 degrees), and Boulder City (+4.1 degrees) also had the 2nd or 3rd warmest October on record. At the opposite end of the spectrum Ely averaged 0.4 degrees below normal.

In the extreme category, the mercury rose to 106 degrees on the 3rd at Laughlin, 105 at nearby Cottonwood Cove, and 104 at Amargosa Farms Garey. The State October record is 109 set at nearby Cottonwood Cove in 1980. At the bottom of the thermometer Charleston had -5 on the 31st, Ruth -4, Deeth -3 on the 30th, Ruby Valley -2, and Reese River O'Toole -1. October's lowest was -10 degrees at Mountain City in 1970.

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Documents Section

For daily extremes Dave Secrist at San Jacinto had two "64 degree days," when the mercury rose from 11 to 75 on the 5th, and 21 to 85 on the 15th. Near Charleston at the Frank Prunty Ranch the diurnal range was even more extreme as the mercury rose from 14 to 81 (67 degrees) on the 11th, 16 to 82 on the 16th (66 degrees) and -1 to 65 on the 24th!

PRECIPITATION

The wettest locations in Nevada were in the Sierra Nevada (Upper Incline 3.10"), the Spring Mountains near Las Vegas (Kyle Canyon 3.00", 2.95" on the 27th) and the Humboldt Range south of Winnemucca (Unionville 2.88"). All these areas had over 1 1/2 times or more than the normal October precipitation.

A few locations in Southern Nevada had no precipitation this month (Desert National Wildlife Refuge, Amargosa Farms, Pahrump, and Laughlin).

At daily measured sites the heaviest reported snowfall was 11.5" at Verdi Peak near Reno, 11.0" at Upper Incline in the Tahoe Basin, and 10.5" at Ruth.

SUNSHINE, WIND & EVAPORATION

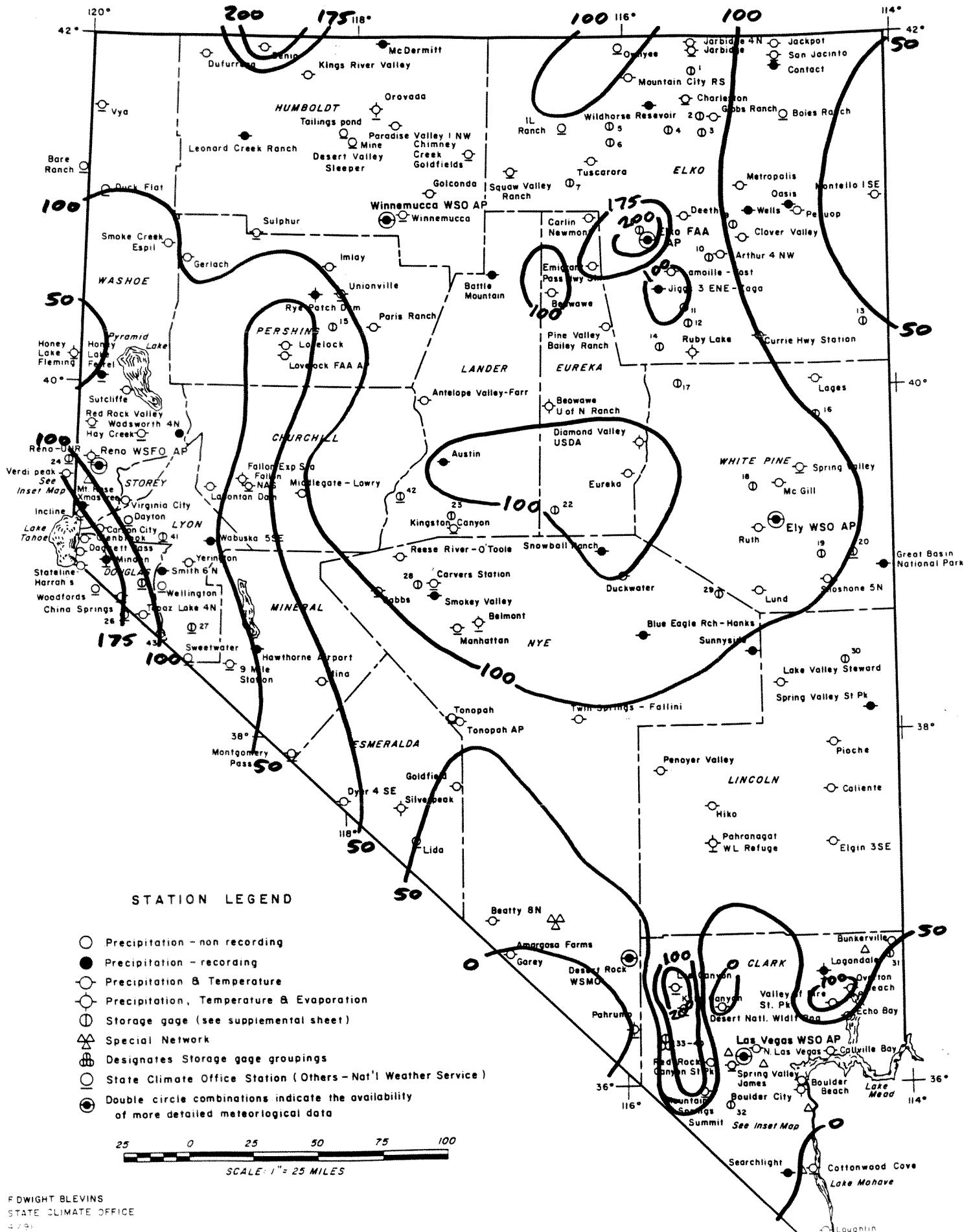
Sunshine hours were well above normal Statewide, with wind speed averages below normal. Evaporation was above normal over most of Nevada again this month. Logandale had 8.81", Pahrump 7.15", Boulder City 6.17", Fallon 4.91", Reno UNR 4.76", Honey Lake and Drovada 4.44", Ruby Lake 4.40", Rye Patch 3.80" and Minden 3.60".

NOTE: Late reports of the 1990-91 Water Year indicate that Kyle Canyon on Mt. Charleston was the wettest location, with 25.53", while Hawthorne was the 2nd driest with 2.63" (Silverpeak had only 1.81").

NEVADA

CLIMATE STATIONS

PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL
PRECIPITATION
October 1991



NEVADA

CLIMATE STATIONS

DEPARTURE OF MEAN TEMPERATURE
FROM NORMAL (F°)
October 1991

